CHAPTER VIII.

Visit of Sir Andrew Fraser—Opening of the Mayurbhanj State Light Railway.

The 2nd December, 1904, was a red-letter day in the annals of Mayurbhanj ; for on that day Sir Andrew Fraser, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, accompanied by Lady Fraser and members of his staff and by Mr. G. F. Growse, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, and Mr. T. R. Wynne, Agent and Chief Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, visited Baripada to perform the opening ceremony of the Mayurbhanj State Light Railway. The occasion was an unique one, not only on account of the completion of the most important and costly public work yet undertaken by the Maharaja, of which we shall make further mention later, but also because no other Lieutenant-Governor had ever visited the State before ; and Mayurbhanj did not fail to rise to the honour of the occasion in paying due respect to the ruler of the Province. The decorations and illuminations reflected much credit on those who were responsible for the work and the whole town wore a gay and smiling aspect. When the train reached Baripada at 10 A.M. the Maharaja requested His Honour to declare the

railway open and read an address, the main points of which were as follows :—

" It was in 1900-01 that we proposed to construct a light railway of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge to give our people easy access to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, as well as to develop a promising part of the State, and with this object surveys were made and detailed plans and estimates prepared and submitted to Government at the close of that year. It was not, however, till the close of 1902-03 that sanction was received to the scheme, and actual work did not begin till 1903. . . . . This railway line has been financed entirely from the current revenues of the State and its estimated cost is Rs. 6,00,000 for 32 miles and the expenditure to date has been a little over Rs. 5,75,000. It is expected that the estimate will not be exceeded. . . . .

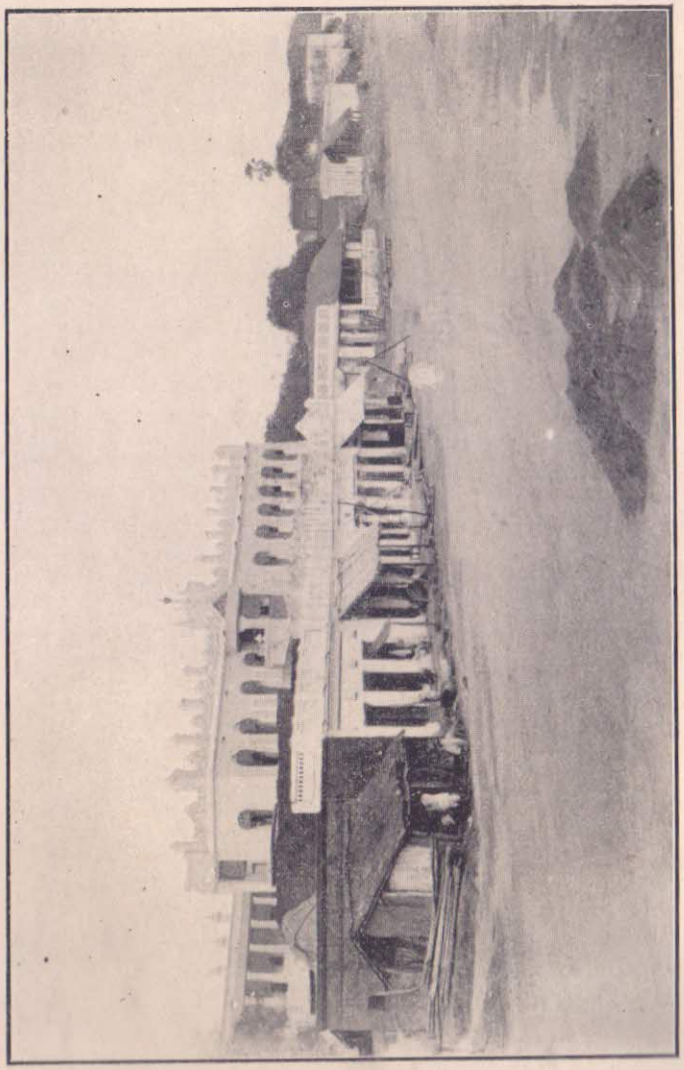
Placing the working expenses at Rs. 1,300 per mile or Rs. 41,600, in all, the nett profit we arrive at is Rs. 21,180, which gives a return of 3.45 per cent. This is all we expect for the present, but improved communication will no doubt increase the trade in timber and forest products, in which the State is extremely rich and tend also to a general improvement in trade under all heads. Even if the receipts barely meet the working expenses for the time, we shall be satisfied, for our object is not so much to make a profit from the Railway as to afford facility for the development of the resources of the State. . . .

The survey, planning, and execution of the line have lain solely in the hands of Mr. Arnold Martin, State Engineer, who has carried out the construction with the help of the Subordinate Staff of the Public Works Department of the State and the assistance of Messrs. Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Messrs. Martin & Co., and Messrs. Orenstein and Koppel, who together supplied most of the European materials, and of Messrs. Hemchand and Dharsi, General Contractors of Rajkote, Kathiawar, who undertook almost the entire work on the line and executed it with commendable promptness and despatch. To them all my thanks are due."

In declaring the line open His Honour delivered an appreciative speech, from which we quote the following extracts :—

" It is a great pleasure to me to come here to-day and to take part in this pleasant function. I congratulate the Mayurbhanj State on having for its ruler a man like the Maharaja who is determined not to give his days to selfish indulgence, but to devote his energies to the opening up and development of his State and the advancement of its interests. Fortunate indeed it is for the State to have such a ruler. . . .

I believe that there is before the State, under its present enlightened ruler, a period of great development and prosperity: I hope that the Maharaja will be led wisely as well as energetically



Rajbati.

to use the opportunities which he has. There is no one that desires more earnestly than I that he may be long spared to rule the State, and that he may be successful in advancing its interests and happy in the work of administration."

On the afternoon of the same day His Honour presided at the prize-giving of the Baripada High English School, and on the next day Lady Fraser laid the foundation-stone of the Girls' School, and in order to signalise these memorable events the Hostel attached to the High English School was called "Fraser Hostel" and the Girls' School was named the "Lady Fraser Girls' School."

On the evening of the 2nd December the distinguished visitors were entertained at an evening party at the Rajbati, which was also attended by the Raja of Nilgiri, the Raja of Kanika, Raja Baikuntha Nath De of Balasore, besides the elite of the town and the State officials. In proposing the toast to His Honour and Lady Fraser on that occasion, the Maharaja delivered the following speech, which is worth quoting as indicative of his firm loyalty to the Sovereign and his sense of obligation to the British Government :—

"Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasant task to propose a toast which I am sure you will receive with cordiality and enthusiasm. But before I do so, I may be

permitted to express the pleasure and pride which I feel at having this opportunity of entertaining Your Honour and Lady Fraser, and of expressing to you, Sir, the loyalty and esteem which I entertain for the British Government.

Loyalty to the Sovereign is a religious injunction in this country and this sentiment finds a prominent place in all well-balanced Indian hearts—all the more because of the many blessings which British rule has conferred on this country. In my own case, I may say that the sentiment of loyalty which is common to all is strengthened by the sense of gratitude for the many benefits which I have received personally from the British Government. After the death of my late lamented father, the care of my person and of my education rested entirely in the hands of Government, and I am eminently thankful for the personal care and attention which it then bestowed on me. Again, during my minority, the State was under Government management and the improvements and progress, which were then started, have served as guides to me for making further improvements and progress. Then, again, in my work of administering the State, I have invariably obtained valuable advice and co-operation from successive Superintendents of Tributary Mahals, and also from Your Honour's Government, and it is to this fact that any success that I have been able to achieve is partly due. Your Honour,

these are the reasons why I had always entertained a desire to welcome the Governor of the Province to my capital and there to express to him, as representative of the Sovereign, the obligations under which I lay to his Government. That desire is now fulfilled. I am neither an orator nor even a good speaker ; it would not, therefore, do for me to prolong my speech so as to express in adequate terms my feelings. Gentlemen, I give you the health of my honoured guests, Sir Andrew and Lady Fraser."

CHAPTER IX.

Death of the Maharaja's Daughter—His Robust Optimism.

Sripad Manjari, the only daughter of the Maharaja, was as intelligent as lovely, and dear to all. Though a girl of only 7 or 8 summers she could speak English fluently and with faultless accent, and on the occasion of the prize-giving presided over by Sir Andrew Fraser at the High School, she recited an English poem in a style so perfect as to surprise all and to elicit the unstinted admiration and applause of His Honour and the other distinguished visitors.

But who suspected that she would be called away so soon? In March 1906, she was attacked with typhoid fever, and though the best medical help available was at once requisitioned from Calcutta and for a time she rallied, she had a relapse and it baffled all human efforts to save her. The delicate flower faded and drooped and on the 9th April, 1906, joined her dear mother in that blessed region where sorrow and death are unknown. Her sad and untimely death naturally calls to mind the lines addressed to "Blossoms" by the poet,

which may be most appropriately applied to her:—

Fair pledges of a fruitful tree,
Why do ye fall so fast?
Your date is not so past,
But you may stay yet here awhile
To blush and gently smile
And go at last.

What were ye born to be
An hour or half's delight
And so to bid goodnight?
'Twas pity Nature brought ye forth
Merely to show your worth
And lose you quite.

The child was very dear to the Maharaja and the shock of her death affected him very keenly. As he gave his beloved daughter a last farewell kiss at the moment of her death, he fell into a dead faint under the stress of his grief. But shortly afterwards he recovered, and restraining his emotion, he came out to his office room and with tearful eyes signed a cheque for the doctors who had been summoned from Calcutta, though his Secretary ventured to suggest that, considering the state of the Maharaja's mind, such business transactions might be deferred and that the doctors themselves would not make the slightest objection to that course. Then he shut himself up in his room and gave way to his bursting feelings in solitude. The intensity of his sorrow, however, unmanned him only for the time being, for shortly afterwards he recovered, in great

measure, his usual equanimity, self-possession, and philosophic fortitude, as will be evident from the following two letters, the first of which was written the very next day to Babu Nalini Mohan Chakravartti, one of the assistants in his Secretary's office :—

BARIPADA,
10*th April*, 1906.

MY DEAR NALINI BABU,

I thank you for your very kind letter in the moment of my sorrow. I am reconciled to the situation in which the Almighty Father has placed me. Although the world may look dark and the heart will ache for a time, yet in God's universe there is nothing evil, and all things work for the glory of God.

Yours sincerely,
S. R. C. B. DEO.

The second letter was written to Babu Nanda Lal Banerjee, a Brahmo gentleman residing at Balasore. It is as follows :—

BARIPADA,
13*th April*, 1906.

MY DEAR NANDA BABU,

I am sorry I have not been able to reply to your kind message of sympathy. Yes, after every

effort had been made to save her life the little angel fled Heavenwards. Of course her departure has left an indelible wound, but who can say that our loss has not been her gain. That must be so, for the dispensations of Providence work for good, although, to our limited vision, they are unmeaning and look dark like the nectar-bearing clouds of summer.

Perhaps she had fulfilled her mission for which she was born and was called away to a higher mansion. She gave up her life in order that her father and other near and dear relations may be carried nearer to their God. From this standpoint the Christian doctrine of atonement is of deep significance. We have to bow to the inevitable with martyr-like resignation and fortitude. I am glad to hear you are improving in health.

Yours sincerely,
S. R. C. B. DEO.

In the two letters quoted above, written during the first outburst of sorrow, when an ordinary man is quite overcome, there is no murmur against fate, not a word of sentimental grief or complaint against the cruel decree of Providence. On the contrary they show the true and steadfast heart of the man and speak volumes for his robust optimism and his firm faith in the wise dispensations of an almighty

and benevolent God. Here is no mere preaching or professing religion, but a true and living faith.

This robust optimism finds a still more beautiful expression eight months later in his address, delivered in Calcutta in December, 1906, as President of the Reception Committee of the All-India Theistic Conference, from which we make the following extract, the entire address being reprinted as an Appendix to this book :—

" It is, however, in the moment of sorrow—of that deep sorrow which is the lot of man—when heaven and earth seem an utter blank, an empty void—when the heart is wounded with many wounds—when the mind finds no rest except in the cry of a passionate prayer to God—it is in that critical yet blessed moment that man hears distinctly a voice whispering words of hope and love ; then, too, he receives support and strength to bear all the suffering which the world can inflict ; then, too, he begins to feel that sorrow is a sacrament. He who has realised all this holds in his hands a key to the enigma of life. The world, to such an one, is no longer a fortuitous concourse of atoms, but a divinely designed habitat of living beings ; human beings are no longer the playthings of blind fatalistic forces, but the offspring of God after his own image."

It is worth noting here, as indicating another phase of the high character of the Maharaja, a striking feature of the two letters quoted above

which may impress many. Both these letters are written to ordinary individuals—one a subordinate officer in the State and the other a humble gentleman not occupying any high rank or position in life. The Maharaja did not consider it beneath his dignity to acknowledge receipt of their letters and write to them in a friendly manner as man to man—a trait which is very rare in a man of his high position in this country. Evidently he clearly understood and acted according to the noble teaching of Burns :—

" The rank is but the guinea stamp,
The man's the gowd [gold] for a' that."

Nothing more surely indicates the true nobility of his character than this sympathetic consideration for the feelings of all men, whether of high or of low estate and his appreciation of their character and motives at their true value, irrespective of rank.

The memory of his daughter was perpetuated by the Maharaja in the Sripad Manjari Memorial Stone erected at the Baripada Leper Asylum, and unveiled on the 18th November, 1907, by Mrs. Bailey during her visit to the State with her husband Mr. W. C. Bailey, Superintendent of the Mission to Lepers in India and the East ; and her name is thus fittingly connected with a noble and philanthropic institution which in its benevolent purpose perpetuates in a manner the promise of her qualities of head and heart. The Asylum was founded

in 1896 when a group of thatched huts was made over to Miss J. M. Gilbert for the shelter of the lepers whom she tended. But in this year 1907, the Maharaja erected well-ventilated and useful buildings on a suitable site about two miles from Baripada, where the lepers were comfortably housed and cared for. From its very foundation the institution was under the direct management of the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Kiddell, who was its life and soul. Her good work is still continued by Miss Allanby, of the Queensland Mission, at Baripada, whose philanthropic works in times of distress caused by flood, famine, or pestilence in Orissa are generally appreciated by a large number of people.

CHAPTER X.

EXTENSION OF HIS POWERS—ARRANGEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF HIS CHILDREN—HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS—THE TITLE OF HEREDITARY MAHARAJA CONFERRED ON HIM BY GOVERNMENT.

WHEN the Maharaja assumed the reins of administration in 1892 he had naturally only very limited powers. The powers which could be exercised by a Feudatory Chief had not been accurately prescribed at that time, and the question of their definition was placed before Government for consideration, with the result that the powers of each Chief were defined and limited by the terms of the Sanads granted to them in 1894. The Maharaja's wise, careful, and just exercise of these limited powers, and his sound knowledge of law and procedure, justified and obtained for him their extension by Government, and consequently the full powers of a Session Judge were conferred on him towards the end of the year 1908, much to the gratification not only of himself but of his subjects These full powers were at the same time, with the approval of Government, delegated to the State

Judge, Babu Haridas Bose, B.L., an officer whose ability and integrity merited the assumption of his capability of exercising such extensive jurisdiction. Thereafter all serious criminal cases were tried by the State Judge, the Maharaja, as President of his Judicial Committee, sitting as a first Court of Appeal.

About this time the Maharaja began to make provision for the further education of his children. They had hitherto been taught privately and had received a good grounding in elementary subjects and acquired a sound knowledge of English, not only at Baripada but also in Hazaribagh and Darjeeling, to which places they had been sent at different periods for the benefit of their health. The Maharaja was desirous not only that they should receive as good an education as possible, but also that they should receive a training such as might best fit them for their duties in life and turn them out manly gentlemen fit to take their proper position in the world. After having carefully considered the best means of attaining this end he sent his two boys, along with their cousin, to the Mayo College at Ajmer in the beginning of 1909, in charge of the present writer as tutor and guardian, and of Pandit Dinabandhu Kar as Uriya teacher. He arranged that his two sons should reside with one of the English masters at the College and that, while scrupulously observing all the ceremonies and rites of Hindu religion and caste, they should in

all other respects live and be brought up as English boys are, for he was of opinion that only in this way could they acquire that sturdiness of character and polish of manner which he so much desired in them. The wisdom of his choice of schools and of his policy regarding his sons' education has been fully justified by its results, and the boys bid fair to be worthy sons of their most worthy father.

This important matter settled he was free to carry out a project on which he had long set his heart, but which he had been unable to undertake owing in part to his reluctance to leave his children unprovided for at home and in part to the multifarious cares of State. He had always had a keen desire to visit foreign lands, not as a pleasure-seeking globe-trotter, but as an earnest student, to study the men and manners of those civilised nations which occupy the foremost place in the world of thought and action: to study on the spot their laws and institutions, their arts and industries, their improved methods of agriculture, education, sanitation—in a word, the causes and conditions of their material and moral prosperity, which has made such rapid strides in recent years. This he desired not in a spirit of idle curiosity, but in order that he might better fit himself for the government of his own territory and learn how best he might take measures for its improvement and advancement.

With this object in view he prepared a programme for an extensive tour round the world, and on the 8th May, 1910, he set sail for Japan, accompanied by Dr. Debendra Chandra Aich, L.M.S., Chief Medical Officer of the State, and a few attendants and servants. He reached Hongkong on the 25th May and lunched with the Governor on the 27th. He visited Canton on the 28th in order to have a glimpse of China, and on his return from there became the guest of Sir Hormushji Modi, the millionaire stockbroker of Hongkong. On the 3rd June he dined with the Governor of the Island, and on the following day re-embarked for Shanghai, touching at Nagasaki on the 9th, and arriving at Yokohama on the 13th June. Thence he proceeded to Tokyo, where he and his party received an enthusiastic welcome on their arrival, on 15th June, at the Shimbashi Station from the members of the Indo-Japanese Association. His Excellency Sir Claud MacDonald visited the Maharaja and they exchanged cordial greetings. Thereafter he spent an interesting and profitable ten days visiting such of the local institutions and scenes as he could compass in the time at his disposal. On the 16th he inspected the Tokyo Technical School and the Commercial Museum and paid a visit to the West Hongwanji Temple at Tsabiji. Next day he visited the Women's University, the Peers' School, Professor Kono's Jujitsu School,

and the University Botanical Gardens. On the afternoon of the 18th he left for Nikko and returned to Tokyo on the 22nd, after having made a tour of, among other things, the Nikko Temples, Kegon Fall, and Lake Chuzenji.

On the 23rd he visited the Imperial Museum and attended a Japanese theatrical performance at Kobukiza. On the morning of the 24th he saw the Civil and Military Museum.

The next few days were occupied with public functions, at which the Maharaja was the honoured guest, and of which we extract the following account from the "Japan" newspaper, dated 28th June, 1910:—

"His Highness the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj was entertained at a tea party in Count Okuma's garden on Friday, the 24th instant. On that occasion the Indo-Japanese Association presented him with the following address which was read by the Vice-President, Baron Kanda:—

"'His Highness Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo, Mayurbhanj:

May it please your Highness—

We, the President and Members of the Indo-Japanese Association, deem it a high honour to welcome your Highness to this Land of the Rising Sun. The genuine interest your Highness takes in the welfare of your subjects is keenly appreciated by us, and your sympathetic, progressive, and enlightened rule has won our deep respect and approbation.

"This is the first visit with which we have been honoured by the ruler of a State in Orissa, and we earnestly hope that it may prove of interest to your Highness and of advantage to your subjects. We are confident that such visits from Ruling Chiefs, which we expect to be more frequent every year, cannot fail to render more cordial and intimate the friendly relations between the people of India and Japan.

"Wishing your Highness a very pleasant sojourn in this country and long life and happiness in your native land, we have the honour to be, etc.

Shigenobu Okuma, President, and Members of
the Indo-Japanese Association.

Tokyo, June 24th, 1910.'

" A beautiful silver casket containing the address was then presented to the Maharaja, who in reply stated that India had much to learn from Japan and that he would advise his brother Chiefs in Orissa to pay visits to this Land of the Rising Sun. He remarked that he was very much pleased with his visit to this beautiful country and he had been the recipient of so many acts of kindness during his stay here that he felt quite at home. The Maharaja concluded by thanking the Association for the address presented to him.

" On Saturday the 25th, the Indo-Japanese Association gave a Japanese dinner in honour of the

Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra and Members, Indo-Japanese Association, Tokio

Front row, right to left of picture.—Mr. Kaka, Mr. Matsno, *Manager, Yokohama Specie Bank*, Baron Kanda, Dr. Aich, Count Okuma, MAHARAJA OF MAYURBHANJ, Baron Shibusawa, Mr. Besamia, Vicount Fuknoka, *Professor, Peers' College*, Mr. Desai.

Back row, from right to left of picture.—Mr. Sujoshi, Mr. Sakurai, *Editor*, "*Sinkiron*", Professor Shiozawa, *Wasida University*, Mr. Setna, Mr. Besamia, Mr. Heroi, *Secretary, I. J. Assoc.*, Mr. Soejiwa, Mr. Edalji, *Secretary, I. J. Assoc.*, Dr. Tokakasu, *Professor, Tokio Imperial University*, Mr. Sugamura, *Editor*, "*Asaki*", Mr. Tanie, *Assistant Secretary, I. J. Assoc.*, Mr. Yamada, *Editor*, "*Munich.*"

Maharaja at the Tokiwa Kwadan, Uyeno Park. At the end of the dinner, Count Okuma, President of the Association, called for three banzais for His Highness which were cordially given. His Highness thanked the President and Members of the Association for the kindness shown to him. He further said that he admired this country and its people so much that, according to the Buddhistic belief in re-birth, he would like to be born a Japanese at the next birth. His Highness noticed that one of the main objects of the Association was to promote friendly relations between Japan and India and he exhorted the Indian merchants present and others to do all in their power to render these friendly relations still more cordial and intimate.

"On Sunday the 26th, Baron Shibusawa entertained the Maharaja at luncheon and with Japanese music at his Asukayama villa. His Highness remarked that Japanese music had much in common with Indian music. The Baron then showed the Maharaja over his garden, which, being exquisitely laid out, was much admired.

"On Monday morning the 27th, His Highness was received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor. On the same afternoon, accompanied by Dr. Aich, he left for Kyoto. After visiting Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, and Nagoya, His Highness will arrive at Yokohama on the 4th July."

So ends the account given in the "Japan" of these pleasant functions. Thereafter the Maharaja completed his tour of the country as outlined above, finding much of interest and profit and not a little pleasure therein, and then sailed for America, in the steamer "Mauretania," Dr. Aich at this point leaving him and proceeding home to Baripada. The Maharaja arrived in London on the 22nd August, where he joined the Maharani, who had sailed direct to England with her sister the Maharani of Cooch Behar at about the same time as her husband left for Japan. A brief account of the journey from Japan to America and thence to England has been given by himself in his letter to Dr. Aich, dated London, 31st August, 1910, for permission to use which and other material connected with the Maharaja's tour our thanks are due to the doctor :—

"After we parted in Japan my trip has been uneventful. The passage across the Pacific has been very calm and quiet and there is nothing very much to record except that in Mid-Pacific it became very cold on account of the northerly course we took. In Vancouver I was very hospitably received by Dr. Monroe, the Port Medical Officer. I broke journey at Laggan and Banff in the Rockies, at Winnipeg, and then *viâ* the great lakes to Toronto. I then went across to the Niagara Falls and then by river route on the St. Lawrence to Montreal and Quebec. I had to rush through America and the long

railway and steamer journeys were somewhat tiresome. The people, however, were very kind and hospitable everywhere. I had to prolong my stay in New York for about nine days. Here I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Perin for four days, who introduced me to several well-known people. I had an opportunity of seeing the Bethlehem Steel Works and the Schenectady Electric Works. From New York I came by the "Lusitania," the sistership of the "Mauretania." The passage across the Atlantic was even calmer than across the Pacific and was uneventful. I arrived in London on the 22nd instant. The climate of England is very good, much like that of Darjeeling in September. There is a good deal of rain and the sky is almost always over-clouded. . . . . .

"I am taking rest in this quiet place which is about twelve miles off from London. I went to the India Office on the 24th and saw Mr. Hirtzel, the Political Secretary. I am going there again to-morrow and will meet the officials. I expect to see Lord Morley and Their Majesties before leaving London. . . . . .

"We are all quite well. The servants are quite at home. Rice, dâl, 'masalas,' and all things found in India are found here. Even Ganges water can be found if search is made for it. Have met Mr. K. G. Gupta and the Gaekwar."

In another letter to Dr. Aich, dated Norbiton Hall, London Road, Kingston, 10th October, 1910, he writes that he was just returned from a nursing home in London where he had undergone a slight but somewhat painful operation and had been confined to bed for about a fortnight. In the same letter he writes : " I am afraid I shall have hardly any time to go to the Continent. I propose paying my respects to Their Majesties during this month, and also see other prominent men and then see Parliament when it opens. I leave England on the 4th December and will arrive in Bombay about the end of the month."

In a letter to the present writer, dated 9th September, the Maharaja writes from London :—

" I have had a most interesting tour through China, Japan, and America, and have now settled down here for a little rest and quiet. I have improved greatly in health and spirits and hope to go back rejuvenated. The English climate is most bracing and delightful. In fact the climate of all the places I have visited is good and brings forcibly home to my mind the truth that climate is a great national asset and the Indian climate compares most unfavourably with those of all prosperous countries. The Japanese and Americans are charming people bubbling over with the milk of human feelings. To strangers they are particularly hospitable and courteous and nowhere

did I receive anything but kindness. These are wonderful people and have a great future before them."

During his tour abroad the management of the State was undertaken by Mr. L. E. B. Cobden Ramsay, I.C.S., Political Agent of the Orissa Feudatory States, who became President of the State Council, and the confidence of the Maharaja in him is expressed in the following extract from a letter to Dr. Aich written from London :—

" I am glad to learn that the Political Agent is taking so much interest in the affairs of the State. I am sure, under his supervision, things will go on very well and there will be very little room for intrigue."

The fact that he had been enabled to make such fortunate provision for the care of the State during his absence had been one of the chief factors in setting him free to make the world-tour which he was thereby able to undertake with an easy mind knowing that things could not go wrong during his absence.

Without this kind assistance his dutiful conscience would scarcely have permitted him to absent himself so long.

During his absence the hereditary title of Maharaja was conferred on him by Government in recognition of the high qualities of his personal character and ability and of his efficient and successful administration of the State, and

the Sanad investing him with this unsolicited but highly valued honour was presented to him on his return to India by Sir Edward Baker, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who expressed in most cordial terms the appreciation of Government of his able and public-spirited management of his State, and his charity and liberality not only towards local objects but to all other institutions such as appealed to his generosity. After the investiture he returned to Baripada, in the beginning of 1911, to the great joy of his people, who gave him a most enthusiastic welcome and presented him with an address which we reproduce as showing the regard in which he was generally held :—

" May it please your Highness—

" We, the Members of the Raj family, the people and servants of the State, all united and animated with most sincere feelings of joy and happiness, respectfully beg leave to approach your Highness to accord a most loyal and heartfelt welcome on this very happy occasion of your safe return to your territory after a long sojourn in foreign lands.

" Since your assumption of the reins of administration of the State, your Highness worked incessantly and strenuously for the advancement of the people committed to your charge, without taking any rest and without minding the strain and worry attending it and their injurious effect upon your health.

" We also offer our humble thanks to the All-Merciful Providence, whose blessings had been on you in your travels, far and wide, on sea and lands, and Who has brought you home safe with perfectly renewed health, amongst your loving and expectant subjects.

" We take this opportunity of publicly expressing deep gratitude to the just, generous, and discerning British Government for conferring the hereditary distinction of Maharaja on you.

" We need hardly recount here the various good measures initiated by your Highness to promote the welfare of your subjects and the many inestimable boons conferred upon them, who feel happy and contented under your just and beneficent administration and are lovingly and devotedly attached to your person. Your Highness's single-minded devotion to duty, noble self-sacrificing spirit, inimitable amiableness, saintly purity of heart and life, high attainments in different branches of useful knowledge, and great solicitude for the good of humanity have justly earned for you the high and honourable distinction of being an ideal ruler of a Native State.

" Your travels in foreign countries, which have enabled you to recruit your health, have at the same time greatly widened your experience of men and things. They have brought you in personal contact with great men of some of the most advanced

countries in the world and enabled you to acquire a first-hand knowledge of the working of a good many useful institutions in these countries. The vast experience gained by your Highness during your foreign travels will be greatly helpful to you in initiating and carrying out various measures for improving the condition of your subjects, whose welfare you have always at heart.

"May God grant you a long, happy, useful, and prosperous life and shower upon you His choicest blessings, is the earnest prayer of

Your Highness's
Most Loyal and Loving Subjects."

CHAPTER XI.

The Delhi Durbar—His Active Interest in the Calcutta Pageant—His Death by Accident.

By a most unfortunate stroke of fate the State was deprived of that opportunity for improved development and progress, to undertake which the Maharaja had qualified himself by his visit to foreign lands and study of their industries and institutions. Shortly after his return home, the announcement of Their Imperial Majesties' intended visit to India caused a great sensation and gave rise to an outburst of loyalty and rejoicing unprecedented in the annals of this country; for the occasion was an unique one and hence the demonstration of joy, too, was unparalleled. The Maharaja threw himself heart and soul into the task of preparing his share in the entertainment of Their Majesties, and during this period, though he continued to supervise the work of the State with his accustomed ability and zeal, he was unable to take up the active development of many of the new schemes on which he had set his heart; and before he had a full opportunity to do so death set a seal on his earthly endeavours.